

Appl No. 10/077,081
TC/A.U. 3711 Docket No. 801-74
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-13, 15-17, 35-39, 43-36, 48-50, 52-54 and 57-73 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 2, 3, 64 and 68-73 are withdrawn without prejudice to Applicant's right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 1, 7-13, 15-17, 35-39, 43-50, 54, 57, 59-60, 62, 63, and 65 are allowed. Claims 52, 61, 66 and 67 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed. Claim 58 has been amended to recite a specific gravity of about 0.93 to about 0.95. Support for the amended element is found in the Specification, on page 8, lines 20-21. No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 52, 53, 58, 61, 66 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

As discussed in our last response, Applicant believes that there is support in the specification for the recited elements in these claims, including claims 52, 61, 66 and 67. However, in an effort to move prosecution forward, Applicant has canceled without prejudice claims 52, 61, 66 and 67.

With regard to claim 53, Applicant believes that there is support in the specification for the recited water vapor transmission rate. The specification states that preferably the water vapor barrier layer has a moisture vapor transmission rate that is lower than that of the cover, and more preferably less than the vapor transmission rate of an ionomer resin such as Surlyn®. The given range for Surlyn® resins is about 0.45 to about 0.95 grams-mm/m²-day. (See Specification, page 7, lines 7-10). This supports the water vapor barrier layer having a moisture vapor transmission rate less than the lower end of the range for Surlyn® resins, so less than .45 grams-mm/m²-day as recited in claim 53. Thus, the specification does indeed support the recitation in claim 53.

With regard to claim 58, claim 58 has been amended to change the upper limit of the specific gravity from 0.96 to 0.95, such that the recitation reads "about 0.93 to about 0.95". Support may be found in the specification at least at page 8, lines 20-21.

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The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is therefore believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof. Thus, claims 53 and 58 should now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicant believes that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicant's attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the attorney at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,



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2/27/06

Date